Government in connection with the celebration of the 'World No Tobacco Day' on 31st May, 1990 :—

(i) A symposium on Tobacco & Health was organised by the Central Health Education Bureau, New Delhi at India International Centre on 31st May, 1990. An exhibition on the theme was also displayed at the Centre.

(ii) Letters have been issued to the Secretaries of all the Central Government Ministries to ban smoking within the ministerial premises,

(iii) Press advertisements were released and material on Tobacco related diseases and harmful effect of tobacco was sent to State Health Education bureaus in the country to mount regional specific programmes for educating the masses. Materials were also sent to various stations of All India Radio and Doordarshan.

(iv) All India Radio and Delhi Doordarshan provided coverage emphasising the importance of the Day. It also featured in the News telecast both in Hindi and in English.

(b) No such survey has been conducted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Sharing of Bombay High Gas with State Governments

*156. DR. BAPU KALDATE :
SHRI A. G. KULKARNI :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to share Bombay High gas with the State Governments for domestic use and down stream industrial use ; and

(b) how much gas is produced at present and what is the share of Maharashtra and other States like Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab etc. in it ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY) : (a) Natural Gas produced in Bombay High is evacuated through two pipelines to onland terminals at Uran in Maharashtra and Hazira in Gujarat for supply to consumers in various states.

(b) The average total production of natural gas from Western Offshore fields, including Bombay High, during the month of July, 1990 was around 37 million cubic metres per day. 30% of the Western Offshore gas is supplied ex-Uran Terminal to industries in Maharashtra and 34% is supplied ex-Hazira Terminal in Gujarat to consumers located in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh through the HBJ Pipeline. 9.8% of the offshore gas is utilised by ONGC for internal consumption and the remaining 26.2% has to be flared on account of inadequate facilities for dehydration, compression and transportation of this gas to onshore terminal for supply to consumers.

Import of drilling rigs by ONGC

*157. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC is importing a number of drilling rigs for its on-going drilling operations in various parts of the country ;

(b) what are the names of the foreign companies engaged in these operations ; and whether the rigs are also being supplied to ONGC on contract basis

(c) whether Government are aware that there are other parties/ companies also which are prepared to import/supply the rigs on contract basis on cheaper rates ; and

(d) if so, whether with a view to save foreign exchange, Government are prepared to negotiate with them, if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY) : (a) and (b) ONGC has been meeting its requirement of drilling rigs for its ongoing drilling operations by a mix of owned as well as charter hired rigs. Some of the owned rigs are imported and some are indigenously manufactured. Similarly rigs have been charter hired from both foreign as well as Indian companies. The following are the names of foreign companies presently engaged by ONGC for providing drilling services on charter hire basis :—

(i) Reading & Bates Exploration Company, USA.

(ii) Sedco Forex International Drilling Inc., Panama.

(iii) Permargo International Corporation, British West Indies.

In addition, as part of Indo-Soviet Cooperation, M/s. Machinoexport, USSR have also been undertaking drilling operations in Cambay and Cauvery Basins.

(c) and (d) ONGC's system for charter hiring rigs is on the basis of global tenders to ensure internationalily. competitive offers. Indian companies are given price preference in such tenders. As a matter of policy, all such contracts are awarded by ONGC through global tenders only and not on negotiated basis. Companies offering lower rates are welcome to participate in ONGC's global tenders.

Inclusion of drugs under price control

*158. CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK :
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry have recently included five drugs under price control ;

(b) if so, what are the names of those drugs and what is the rationale therefor ;

(c) whether his Ministry has fixed fair prices of medicines based on these drugs ;

(d) if so, what are the names of those finished medicines, earlier and present price of each ;

(e) whether it is a fact that there are still a number of drugs outside price control which do not fulfil any exclusion criteria ; and

(f) if so, what are the names of such drugs which have come to the notice of his Ministry and by when a decision on them would be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY) : (a) to (d) Yes ; Sir. On 6-7-1990, the following five more drugs have been included under price control under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1987 :—

1. Carbenixolone
2. Diclofenac Sodium
3. Ethisterone
4. Norgestrol
5. Povidone Iodine